Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Monday, March 21, 2011 TESTIMONY OF RABBI JEFF GLICKMAN, SOUTH WINDSOR, CT

IN SUPPORT OF HB-6599

AN ACT CONCERNING DISCRIMINATION

Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox, distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My am Rabbi Jeff Glickman of South Windsor, CT. It is an honor to submit this testimony in support of HB 6599, "An Act Concerning Discrimination."

My testimony is very simple. According to the Jewish faith, all people are created in God's image. There is a prayer which attests to this. If we see someone who is so different from us that we are taken aback, the response is not one of fear, but to recite, "Blessed are you, Lord our God, who made us all in your image

The challenge is for us to treat all people as equally created. This certainly applies to transgender people. Yet, transgender people are not included under Connecticut's current anti-discrimination statutes. HB 6599 addresses this injustice by adding gender identity and expression to those statues. I fully support this change and urge you to support it as well.

Thank you.